

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-02 NEA-10 CIAE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
OAU COLLECTIVE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT BRIEFING - ZAIRE - APRIL 20, 1977

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS CONCERNING ZAIRE FROM
DEPARTMENT BRIEFING APRIL 20.

2. Q: IN YOUR DETAILED LISTING OF THE NON-LETHAL AID
BEING SENT TO PRESIDENT-FOR-LIFE MOBUTU YOU MENTIONED
WHAT I TALLY AS 182 RADIOS BUT YOU NEVER MENTIONED
COCO-COLA, WHEN GENERAL MOBUTU HAS REPORTEDLY ORDERED A
DOLLARS 60,000 PLANE LOAD OF THIS GEORGIA PRODUCT. I WAS
WONDERING WHERE YOU KEPT IN THE ABOUT THIS UNIQUE
EMERGENCY AID BECAUSE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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CHARLES DUNCAN IS A FORMER PRESIDENT OF COCA-COLA OR
WHAT? WHY WASN'T THIS IN THAT DETAILED, THAT WONDERFULLY
DETAILED CONTENTS OF THE PLANE? WHY NO COKE?

A: BECAUSE IT IS NOT IN THE MATERIAL THAT WE ARE PROVIDING.
IT WAS REQUESTED. THEIR REQUEST WAS NOT ACTED UPON.

THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BOUGHT, I UNDERSTAND, A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF COCA COLA THROUGH COMMERCIAL CHANNELS IN NEW YORK, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THAT WILL BE SHIPPED TO THEM AT SOME TIME BUT HAS NOT YET BEEN.

3. Q: THAT IS A SECOND SHIPMENT?

A: NO. I HAVE NO SHIPMENT AT ALL THAT WE HAVE PROVIDED THEM. WE DID NOT ACT ON THEIR REQUEST FOR COCO-COLA.

4. Q: THEY ASKED FOR IT AS PART OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM?

A: THEY ASKED FOR IT AS PART OF AN OVERALL PACKAGE OF REQUESTS.

5. Q: LETHAL OR NON-LETHAL? AS A GEORGIAN.

A: AS A LOYAL SON OF THE SOUTH I WILL SAY A HEALTH GIVING AND ALTOGETHER NON-LETHAL REQUEST.

6. Q: WHEN YOU SAY THEY ASKED FOR IT, DID THEY EXPECT TO PAY FOR IT OUT OF SOME CREDIT FROM THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES?

A: I WOULD ASSUME THAT IS HOW THEY WERE ASKING FOR IT. BUT, IN ANY CASE, THE WAY IT HAS BEEN HANDLED IS AS A COMMERCIAL SALE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE AND WHOEVER THE WHOLESALER IS.

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7. Q: HOW WILL IT BE SHIPPED? WILL IT BE SHIPPED ON THE C-130?

A: I DON'T KNOW IF WE HAVE AN ANSWER AS TO HOW IT WILL BE SHIPPED. TO THE EXTENT THAT THERE WAS ANY THOUGHT GIVEN ORIGINALLY TO TRANSPORTING COCA-COLA IT WAS GOING TO BE ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS IN PLANES ALREADY CHARTERED TO TRANSPORT OTHER EQUIPMENT TO ZAIRE SO IT WOULDN'T COST THE TAXPAYERS ANYTHING ADDITIONAL.

BUT, NO, I DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER FOR YOU ON THIS MATTER OF SHIPMENT, AND I JUST WANT TO REPEAT AGAIN NO U.S. FUNDS HAVE BEEN SPENT ON THE ACTUAL PURCHASE OF THE COCA-COLA.

8. Q: HOW ABOUT THE SHIPMENT?

A: WELL, THAT IS SPECULATIVE. I DON'T KNOW HOW THE

SHIPMENT GOES. BUT, AGAIN, WHEN THAT IS DECIDED I WILL BE GLAD TO TELL YOU.

9. Q: WERE THERE INQUIRIES MADE TO THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT AS TO WHY THIS QUANTITY OF COKE WAS BEING REQUESTED AND, TWO, CAN YOU EXPLAIN ON WHAT BASIS THE REQUEST WAS TURNED DOWN?

A: NO. I AM SORRY. I CAN'T.

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT WE COMMUNICATED ANY QUESTIONS ON THE SUBJECT AND I ASSUME THAT WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THAT COCA-COLA IS A WELL-LIKED DRINK IN ZAIRE, THAT WE DIDN'T FEEL THAT IT WAS HIGH ON THE LIST OF PRIORITY NEEDS OF NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT.

10. Q: WHEN THEY MADE THE REQUEST DID THEY SAY UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT THEY WANTED THE COCA-COLA FOR THEIR TROOPS, OR THEY JUST WANTED IT?

A: IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FOR THEIR TROOPS.

11. Q: IN SHABA?

A: YES.
IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE REQUEST WAS MADE BECAUSE, AMONG OTHER REASONS THEY DON'T HAVE IT IN CANS THERE AND WANTED IT IN CANS.

12. Q: WHILE WE ARE ON ZAIRE, THE NEWS AGENCY AZAP REPORTED THAT MUTSHATSHA HAS NOW BEEN SURROUNDED BY ZAIRIAN FORCES INCLUDING THE PIGMIES WITH BOWS AND ARROWS WHILE ANOTHER REPORT SAYS THAT EACH PIGMY HAS A RIFLE AS BIG AS HE IS.

NOW, I WAS WONDERING DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PIGMY TROOPS AND WHETHER WE ARE SENDING THEM ANY MINATURE RIFLES OR OTHER APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT?

Q: THE SHORT CUBANS.

A: THIS IS A MINATURE BRIEFING TODAY. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT SITUATION. I HAVE READ THE SAME REPORTS.
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Message Attributes

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